Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please amend all references to "Figure 9" to -- Figures 9A &9B -- as follows

At page 14 of the specification, use these replacement paragraphs, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(b).

FIGURES 9A & 9B ~~is a~~are black and white photographs of laminin digested with elastase, separated by SDS-PAGE and following interaction with biotinylated Aß (1-40). A ~55 kilodalton laminin fragment (arrow) that binds biotinylated Aß was identified and sequenced. Note also the presence of a ~130 kDa fragment (arrowheads) that binds Aß following 1.5 hours of elastase digestion (lane 2). ~~Panel A~~Figure 9A is a ligand blot using biotinylated Aß as a probe, whereas ~~panel B~~Figure 9B is Coomassie blue staining of the same blot in ~~Panel A~~Figure 9A to locate the specific band(s) for sequencing.

FIGURE 10 shows the complete amino acid sequence of the mouse laminin A chain. Sequencing of the ~55 kilodalton Aß-binding band shown in ~~Figure 9~~Figures 9A & 9B leads to the identification of an 11 amino acid segment (underline and arrowhead) within the laminin A chain. This Aß binding region of laminin is situated within the globular domain repeats of the laminin A chain.

At page 41 of the specification (Example 6), use these replacement paragraphs, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(b).

In ~~Figure 9, Panel A~~Figure 9A represents an Aß ligand blot whereas ~~panel B~~Figure 9B represents the equivalent Coomassie blue stained blot. As shown in ~~Figure 9, Panel A~~Figure 9A (lanes 2 and 3), elastase-digested laminin produced multiple protein fragments which bound biotinylated Aß (1-40). ~~Panel A~~Figure 9A, lane 1 represents undigested mouse EHS laminin, whereas lanes 2 and 3 represents laminin which had been digested with elastase for 1.5 hours or

2.5 hours, respectively. ~~Panel A~~Figure 9A, lane 4 represents elastase digestion for 2.5 hours in the absence of laminin. Undigested laminin (~~Fig. 9, Panel A~~Figure 9A, lane 1) which interacted with Aß included multiple bands from > ~400 kDa to > ~86 kDa, with the most prominent Aß-interaction occurring with intact laminin (i.e. ~ 400 kDa). Elastase-resistant laminin protein fragments which interacted with Aß (~~Fig. 9, Panel A~~Figure 9A, lanes 2 and 3) included fragments of > ~400kDa, ~130 kDa (arrowhead), ~80-90 kDa, ~65 kDa and a prominent band at ~ 55 kDa (arrow). The interaction of these elastase-resistant laminin protein fragments with Aß were only observed under non-reducing conditions suggesting that the Aß interaction was also conformation dependent. The 130kDa elastase resistant laminin fragment which interacts with Aß, is also believed to be part of the E8 fragment (see Figure 11), and is the same protein fragment of laminin that appears to be present in human serum and cerebrospinal fluid (see Examples 10 and 11). ~~Figure 9, Panel A~~Figure 9A, lane 4 demonstrates that the band observed at ~29 kDa represents non-specific Aß binding due to the presence of the elastase enzyme alone.

~~Figure 9, Panel B~~Figure 9B demonstrates all of the multiple protein bands which were stained by Coomassie blue. Note, for example, in ~~Panel B~~Figure 9B, lanes 2 and 3, that elastase digestion of laminin produced multiple protein fragments between ~55 kDa and ~90 kDa which did not bind Aß, and were not observed in the Aß ligand blot (~~Fig. 9, Panel A~~Figure 9A, lanes 2 and 3).

Please amend the Drawings as follows:

Figure 9 has been re-numbered to appear as Figures 9A and 9B (see attached proposed drawing correction sheet).